



# Council

CLlr F Mortimer	Chairman
CLlr N Webb	Vice Chairman
Membership:	All Councillors

Members are invited to a meeting of **Council** in the **Conference Room, Riverside, Lowestoft** on **Wednesday, 18 April 2018 at 6.30 pm.**

An Agenda is set out below.

## Part One - Open to the Public

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**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Declarations of Interest**

**3. Minutes**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting held on 21 March 2018.  
(Pages 1 to 12)

**4. Communications**

**5. Announcements from the Chief Executive / Leader of the Council**

**6. Notices of Motion**

No Notices of Motion have been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

**7. Questions from Members**

The following questions have been submitted by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11:

(a) Question from Councillor G Elliott to the Leader of the Council

In October 2010 a unique partnership between Clinks Care Farm, Great Yarmouth & Waveney Primary Care Trust and Norfolk & Waveney Mental Health Trust was awarded an NHS Innovation Grant to run an innovative "Farming on Prescription" programme at Clinks Care Farm near Beccles. The programme ran successfully for 1½ years and 44 people spent 12 weeks (1 day a week) at the farm on a therapeutic placement partaking in farming activities to aid their recovery from mild to moderate mental health issues. The programme was ahead of its time as a social prescribing project.

The pilot of "Farming on Prescription" was so successful that Clinks Care Farm was commissioned by Great Yarmouth & Waveney Primary Care Trust CCG for the following year

providing placements for 24 people a year. The feedback from the Primary Care Trust and later the CCG was excellent as the outcomes achieved for those attending were very good with participants reporting improvements in their mental health. Clinks Care Farm continued to be commissioned to provide "Farming on Prescription" until the recent decision to terminate it.

The total numbers for the programme are as follows:-

- 132 participants completed placements (15 participants did not complete)
- 32 people went into employment (24 %).
- 20 people started volunteering (15%)
- 6 people started college
- 1 person took a holiday from caring responsibilities
- 1 person wrote a book.
- 96% of people showed significant improvements in their mental health using the MOHOST questionnaire and Edinburgh well-being scale.

These excellent figures show the programme provides value for money as participants are able to move on with their lives following excellent recovery outcomes. "Farming on Prescription" has been successful in its aim to prevent patients' mental health deteriorating to the point they will need to access A&E or secondary care intervention, by improving patients' confidence and independence.

Considering the above, it is rather surprising that Great Yarmouth and Waveney CCG has decided not to renew the contract for "Farming on Prescription". The directors of Clinks Care Farm understand that the CCG needs to stay within its budget and that there are increasing pressures on the budget. However, at £23,000 a year, the funding for "Farming on Prescription" is very small and the benefits very significant.

Will the Leader of the Council write to the CCG and ask them to consider reversing this very short-sighted cut?

(b) Question from Councillor J Craig to the Leader of the Council

On behalf of residents who have been left with very poor installations of external wall insulation under the Community Energy Saving Programme in 2012, due to the actions of the installer. Many of the homeowners have no, or incomplete building regulation paperwork and no guarantees, and this could have serious consequences for the value of their homes. As this project was brought to their homes with the full support from this Council, they wrongly assumed that the work would be carried out competently. What support is the Council now willing to offer these residents?

(c) Question from Councillor I Graham to the Leader of the Council

It was reported in `The Waveney Advertiser` on Friday, 30 March 2018 that Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, is proposing the consideration of a countywide network of CCTV. Would this not be a fairer plan and policy than WDC residents living within the area of Lowestoft Town Council having to bear an unequal financial burden for monitoring areas of the district that many residents outside of Lowestoft, make use of, and want to see kept safe?

(d) Question from Councillor J Murray to the Cabinet Member for Community Health & Safety

Having attended the local briefing on the Norfolk & Waveney's STP (Sustainable Transformation Partnership) in Beccles on the 7 March 2018; can Councillor Rudd tell us why Great Yarmouth & Waveney are not working in Alliances like the rest of Suffolk?

(e) Question from Councillor L Gooch to the Cabinet Member for Resources

At the WDC Full Council meeting on the 21 March 2018 Members were told that the cost to the Council of exempting care-leavers in Waveney from the burden of Council Tax is approximately £20,000 per annum. Given that recent reports suggest that one fifth of the prison population is composed of former 'looked after' children, would it not be progressive if WDC became one of twenty or so Councils across the country to recognize and support the particular needs of these residents and thus provide full exemption until the age of 21?

(f) Question from Councillor S Barker to the Cabinet Member for Resources

Would you agree with the recently released Data from The Bureau of Investigative Journalism and the National Audit Office that Waveney District Council's Reserves have risen by £9.3m to £14.3m since 2010/11, meaning that the Council's total reserves are nearly 1.5 times its annual expenditure. At the same time as a drop in funding from Westminster of 55.3% for WDC?

**8. Petitions**

No petitions have been received.

**9. Questions from the Electorate**

No questions have been submitted by the electorate as provided by Council Procedure Rule 10.

**10. Verbal Update on the Artefacts from the Town Hall**

Verbal Update from the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Merger & Communities

**11. Member Development Update Report (REP1832)**

Report of the Leader of the Council (Pages 13 to 34)

**12. Councillor Request for Extended Leave of Absence (REP1869)**

Report of the Leader of the Council (Pages 35 to End)

**Close**



Stephen Baker, Chief Executive

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